

Husband and Wife God's Way

Ephesians 5: 21-33

11/3/02

Intro

- Progress at the building.
- Thank you to everyone who has helped at the building.

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In the last few weeks we have been looking at some of the results of being filled with the Holy Spirit and one of the results was that of submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Now in these verses Paul is specifically applying that to marriage. I know that there are many people in our church that are not married, but I believe that it is important to know about God's principles for marriage even if you're not married.

Marriage is an extremely important area for the Lord because it has such a great impact on God's people and thus the church.

These, then, are the principle on which God has chosen to build marriage. If we would decide to do marriage God's way, we will be the ones that are blessed.

Marriage can either be one of the greatest blessings of your life, or one of the greatest difficulties of your life. It's usually one or the other. But good marriages are not just a coincidence – it takes making the right decisions and being committed to the right principles – God's. He created it and He knows the way to make it work.

I. Wives be subject to your own husbands.

A. This is not popular with some women.

Illus – Dr. Louis Talbot was preaching at the Church of the Open Door in LA in the 40's and ...

- There could be several reasons.

- Some men are just not easy to submit to.
- Submitting isn't an easy principle in general.
- Some women are better are leading than their husbands.

B. But it is one of the keys to marriage God's way.

Illus – A two-headed anything is a monster.

- If God created marriage, then He knows the principles that will make it work best.

C. “As to the Lord,” Paul says.

- Not as if the husband is the Lord (even if he is given a burnt offering),
- but simply respond to the authority God has placed in that position.

Illus – There are different Greek words for “husband,” and one of them is georgos – farmer – one who produces fruit. In that illustration, then the wife is the soil. Remember the parable of the sower and the soils.

D. Because the husband has been given the role of headship.

- Headship relationships are God the Father, God the Son, husband, wife.
- If the husband is out of order, then the whole point is lost.

Illus – Imagine working for a boss who says, “I'm going to take this whole division and start my own company.”

E. The husband is to imitate Christ in being the Savior of the body.

- This is the dying part. See **Phil 2: 8-9.**
- Why do some people emphasize one part only?

II. **Husbands love your wives.**

- A. In the same way that Christ loved the church.
- By giving himself up for her.

Illus – Jesus gave Himself up to the Father, and husbands should give themselves up to the Son.

- B. What is the purpose for the husband loving his wife?
1. That he might sanctify her (set her apart for the Lord), having cleansed her by the washing of water with the Word.

Illus – When a farmer produces fruit, he should tithe it to the Lord. In the same way, a husband should give the first portion of his wife to the Lord.

2. That he might present to himself the church in all her glory...

Illus – the farmer then enjoys the rest of what he produces. A wife that is right with the Lord is a blessing from God.

3. That might nourish and cherish her. This is the dream of most wives – to be honored and cherished by their husbands.

Illus – A husband who does not give honor to his wife is hitting himself with a hammer.

C. Because we are members of His body.

- Gen 2:24 is the proof text for this statement.
- This is a great mystery, but he is speaking about Christ and the church.

III. **Keys to a good and godly marriage.**

A. Don't hold on to hurt.

- The mercies of the Lord are new every morning.
- We should bury our hurts at the foot of the cross.

Illus – Otherwise, our hurts will begin to stinketh.

B. Fulfill your part out of honor to Christ.

- Don't wait for the other to do his/her part first.

Illus – “I'll start submitting when he starts loving,” or “I'll start loving when she starts submitting,” won't work.

Conclusion

May we experience the blessings of God in marriage as we apply His principles and believe His Word.